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ಚಿತ್ರಕಲಾ ಪರಿಷತ್

Karnataka
Chitrakala Parishath

MUSEUM
ಮ್ಯೂಸಿಯಂ

KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH MUSEUM & GALLERIES

Namasthe, you are entering Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath (KCKP) an epicenter for art and culture in Bangalore and a landmark for visual art in the country.

As an art educational center the College of Fine Arts offers a Bachelor and Master degree in visual art for students from India and abroad.

This unique art space has a history of being a repository of local folk Leather and Marionette puppets and traditional Mysore icon painting which is part of its core collection. And has works of local, regional modern and national art and also a international section of artists. It is a treasure trove that will take you back in history and is unique in its diversity.

This is a space where the local art meets the national, and connects to the global context of contemporary Indian art practice.

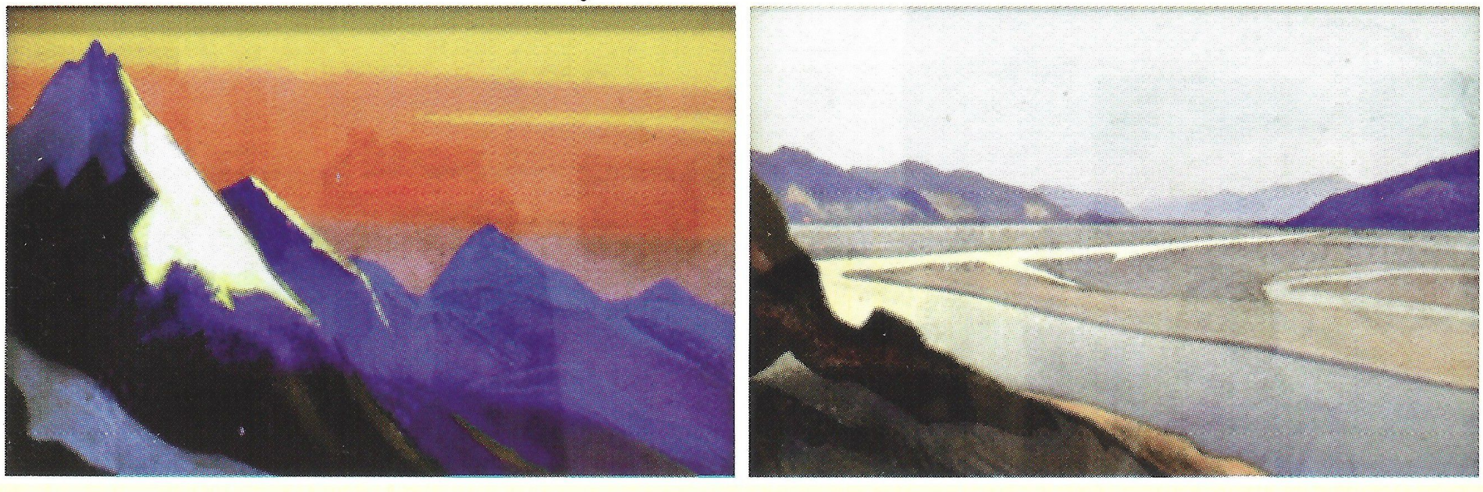
THE RUSSIAN CONNECTIONS
ROERICH GALLERIES

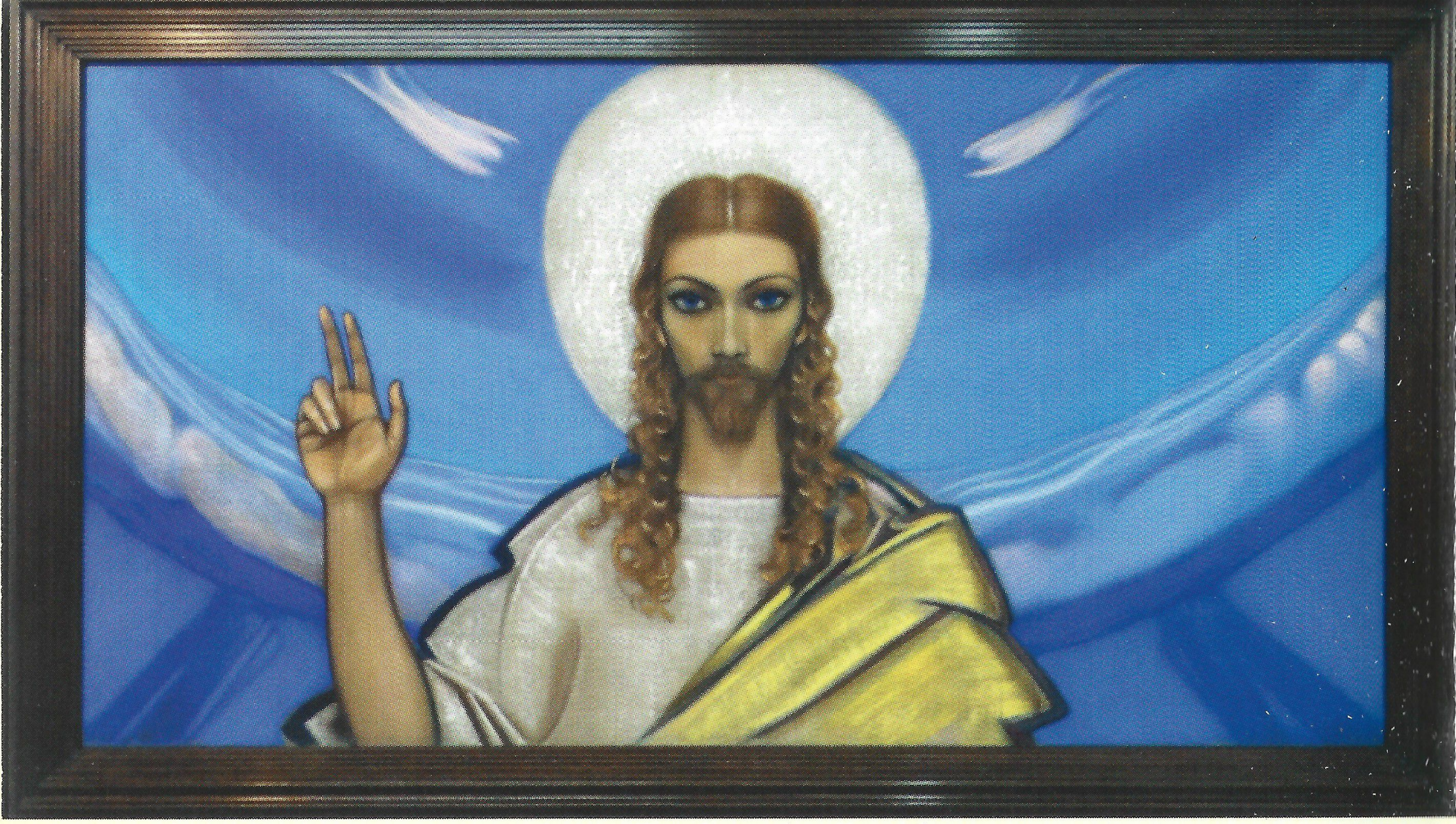
We have had long association with Dr.Svetaslav Roerich (1945 -93) and Devika Rani who had made Bangalore their home and became patrons to KCP. Devika Rani was the first lady of Indian cinema, she also had a film production house and was an eccentric and bohemian modern women. They owned a sprawlling estate in the outskirts of Bangalore called Tatguni and grew linoleum for the perfume industry. In 1990 the couple donated these painting to KCKP.

The Roerichs were Romantics who donated a huge collection of works to KCKP. The father Nikolai Roerich Living Ethics (Agni Yoga) is a philosophical teaching which embraces all sides of being—from cosmological problems, down to daily human life They had a deeply spiritual philosophy which incorporated elements of Buddhism, Hinduism, Pantheism, Theosophy, Russian Orthodoxy and even the Theory of Relativity.

They embraced the ancient teachings of Agni Yoga, which was the yoga of fire; the yoga of action rather than asceticism. They were part of Orientalists, having discovered India/Asia's spiritual essence. They were moving away from the materialism of the west. Their eclectic interests made them wandering nomads in search of utopia — a mythical "Shambhala" in the Himalayas. But after Nicholas's death in (9th October 1874—13th December 1947), 1947, Svetoslav came into his own artistically and explored an

Himalayan Series - Nicholas Roerich





Jesus - Dr. Svetaslav Roerich

expressionistic palate and many idyllic Indian scenes inspired by the ragas. Svetoslav devoted time and effort to the Roerich Pact developed by Nicholas in early 1930s — a project for the protection of cultural values in times of warfare and civil strife. India signed this document in 1948. He became known in India for his series of studies of the Himalayas. The medium used in these paintings is tempera; the colours in shades of luminous blue afford the works an ethereal and spiritual atmosphere.

Svetoslav was actively involved in the preservation and protection of the ancient Indian cultural monuments till the end of his life, and was awarded the prestigious Padma Bhushan. He was known for his mystical and romantic Himalayan landscapes and sensuous portraits of women and distinguished men. Many of these pictures hang in museums and art galleries across India, Europe and the United States and a few adorn the walls of the Parliament in New Delhi. But when we look at some of his best portraits, Devika Rani's intimate images stand out along with a few images of Lakshamama, a rustic farm worker in the Tataguni estate. The artist was like Gauguin and found his Tahiti in India/Bengaluru.

Roerich and Devika Rani were a legendary romantic couple in Bengaluru. Their life was like an opera with romance, intrigue and betrayal at the Tataguni estate on Kanakapura road. This talented couple was a symbol of Indian and Russian friendship and part of the cultural scene of the city.

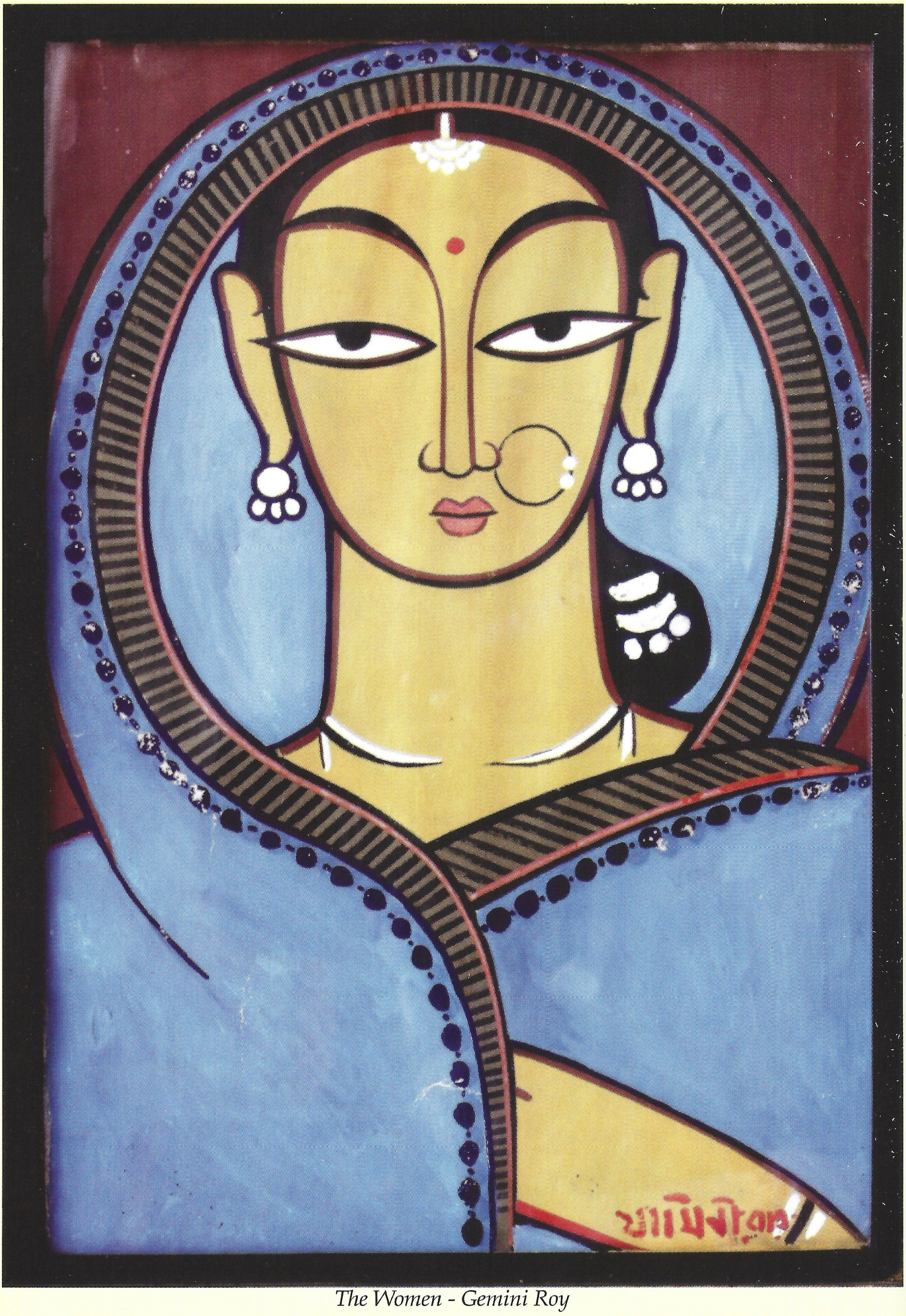
The KEJRIWAL GALLERY 1

In 1995, Mr. H.K.Kejriwal, art connoisseur and collector, donated his family's art collections Gallery one is an extensive collection dating from 1800s to the 1950s. From The rustic folk paintings, Kalighat drawings, Santhal Pat, and Patta Chitra narrative scrolls. This section focuses more on the “Bengal School” "Santiniketan artists did not believe that to be indigenous one has to be historicist either in theme or in style, and similarly to be modern one has to adopt a particular trans-national formal language or technique. Modernism was to them neither a style nor a form of internationalism. It was critical re-engagement with the foundational aspects of art necessitated by changes in one's unique historical position" are housed in gallery one along with a collection of his satirical lithographs by Gagendranath Tagore and several graphic prints, aquatints and lithographs.And the famous company school prints by the Daniels.

The Modernist works of Ramkinker Baij, Binod Behari Mukherjee, Abhanindranath Tagore, Rabindranath Tagore, Amrita Sher Gil, S.H.Raza and Jamini Roy are inspired by the Nationalist art movement in Bengal and the making of Modern Indian Art.

KEJRIWAL GALLERY 2

The Indian modern art section consists of painting and sculpture displayed in the gallery showcasing the widening concerns and practices of several generations of artists.



The Women - Gemini Roy

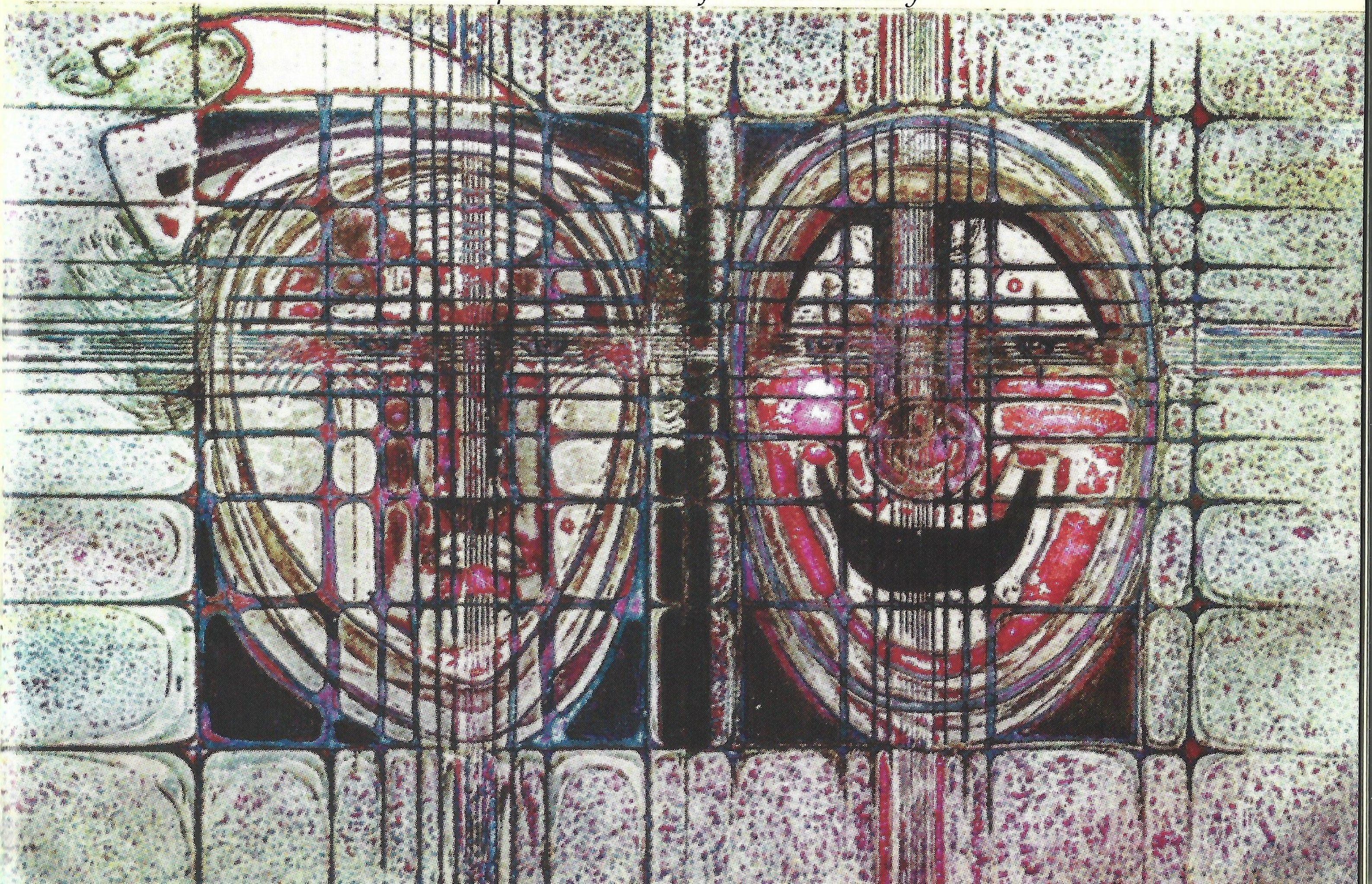
KEJRIWAL GALLERY 3

The Pan Indian Panorama is a collection of work by the Progressive artists group and the next generations of diverse individuals concerns and visual languages through the 90s. The works of S.G.Vasudev, Yusuf Arakkal, Anjoli Ela Menon, G.R.Iranna, Laxma Goud and others are part of the display including artists who belonged to different modernist trends and geographic regions in India.

KRISHNA REDDY GALLERY

The Krishna Reddy bequest Considered a master in intaglio printmaking, Krishna Reddy has been guest professor at many top-ranking universities in the USA. Since 1965 he has been an associate director at Hayter's Atelier 17 in Paris.Reddy's technique and style have distinguished him as one of the best printmakers of the world. Reddy's prints are abstract. He creates subtle grid-like designs on his plates with intricate texturisations. The myriad complex colour that he introduces in prints are marked by a contemplative approach to the infinite mysteries of nature.

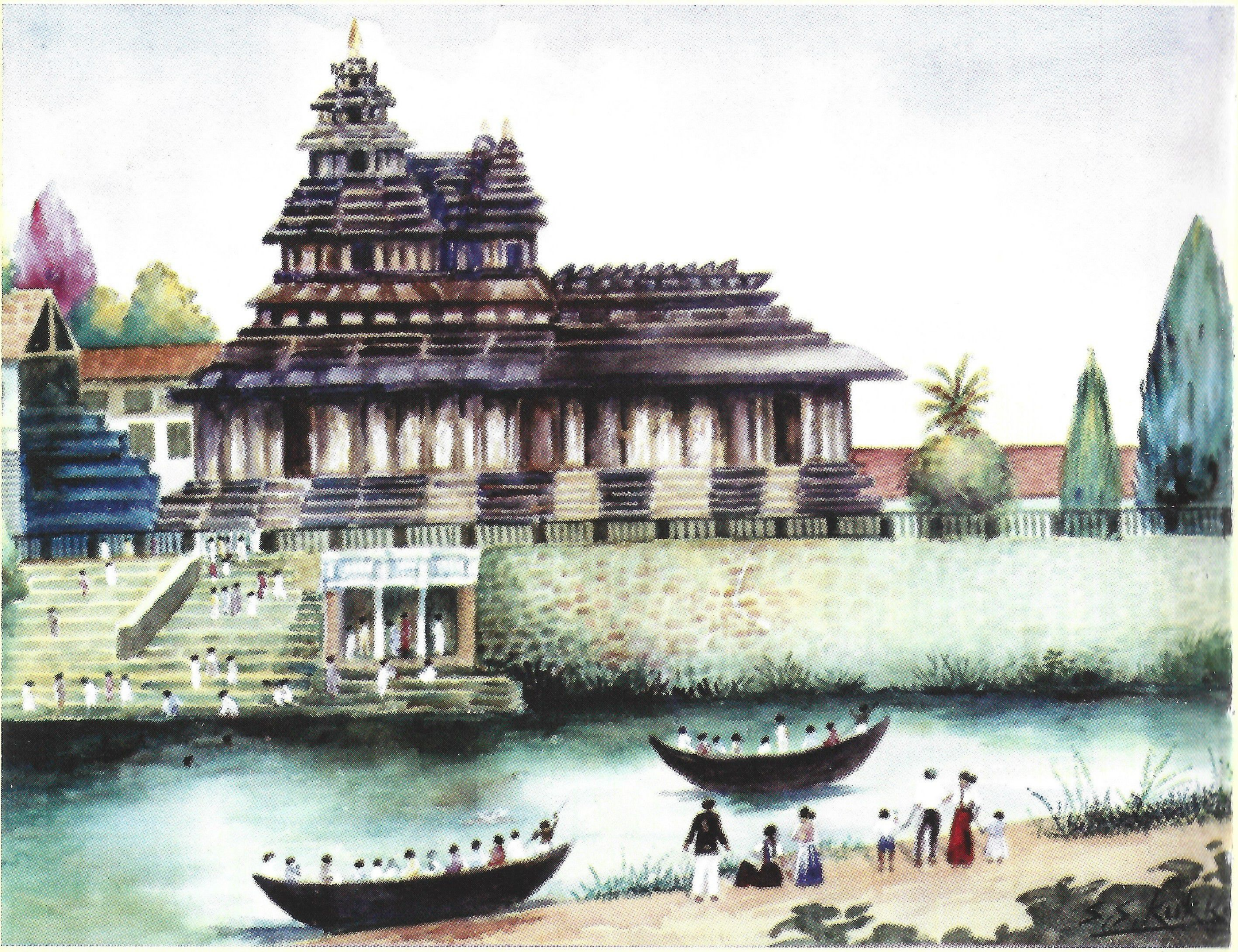
Graphic Print - Prof. Krishna Reddy



KUKKE GALLERY

Srikanta Shastry Kukke was one of the founders of the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. He also played an important part in the conception of the Chitrakala Vidyalaya. He studied at the Chamarajendra technical Institute (CTI) in Mysore. The artist used Wash technique of the Bengal School to depict mythological narrative.

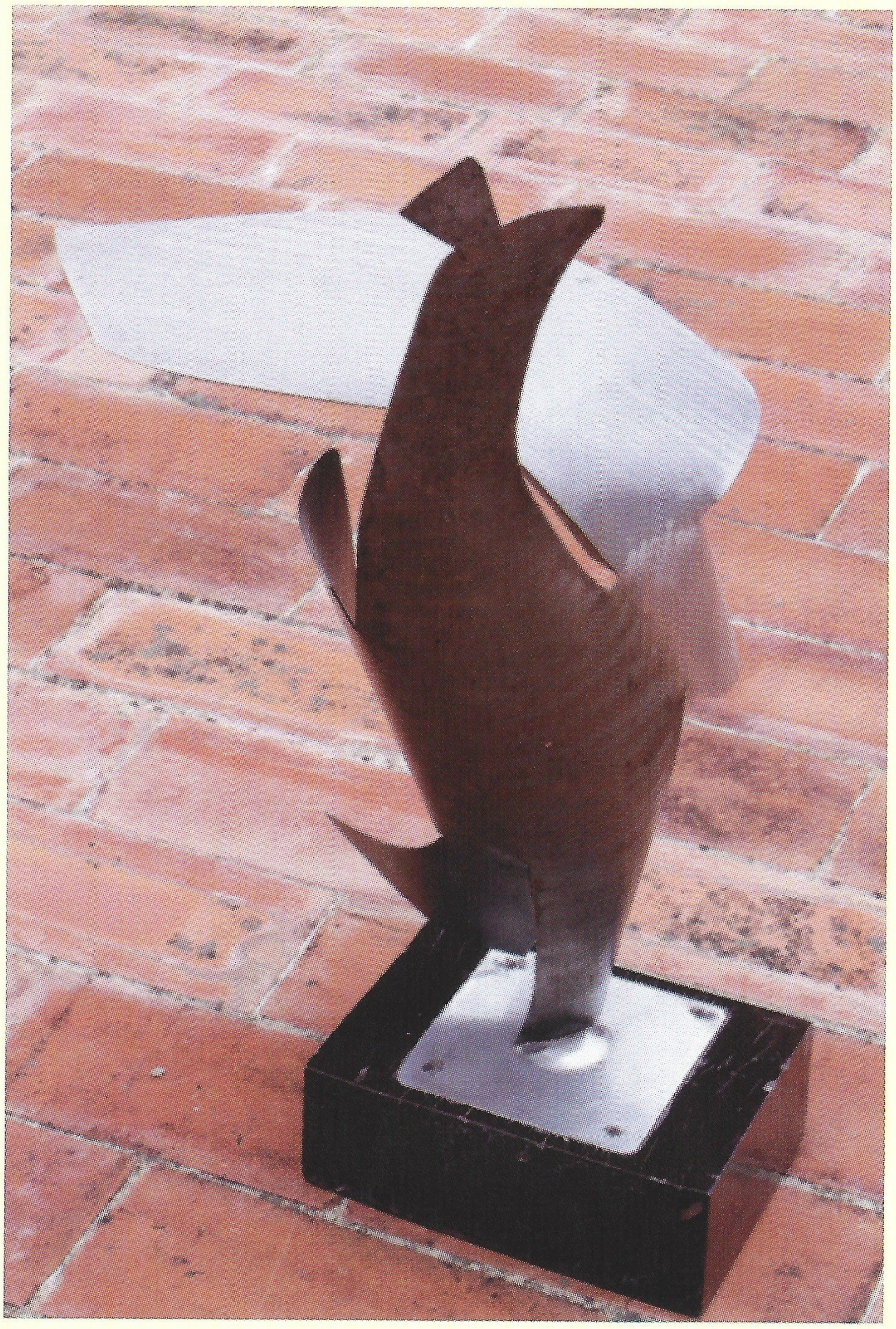
Water color Landscape - S.S.Kukke

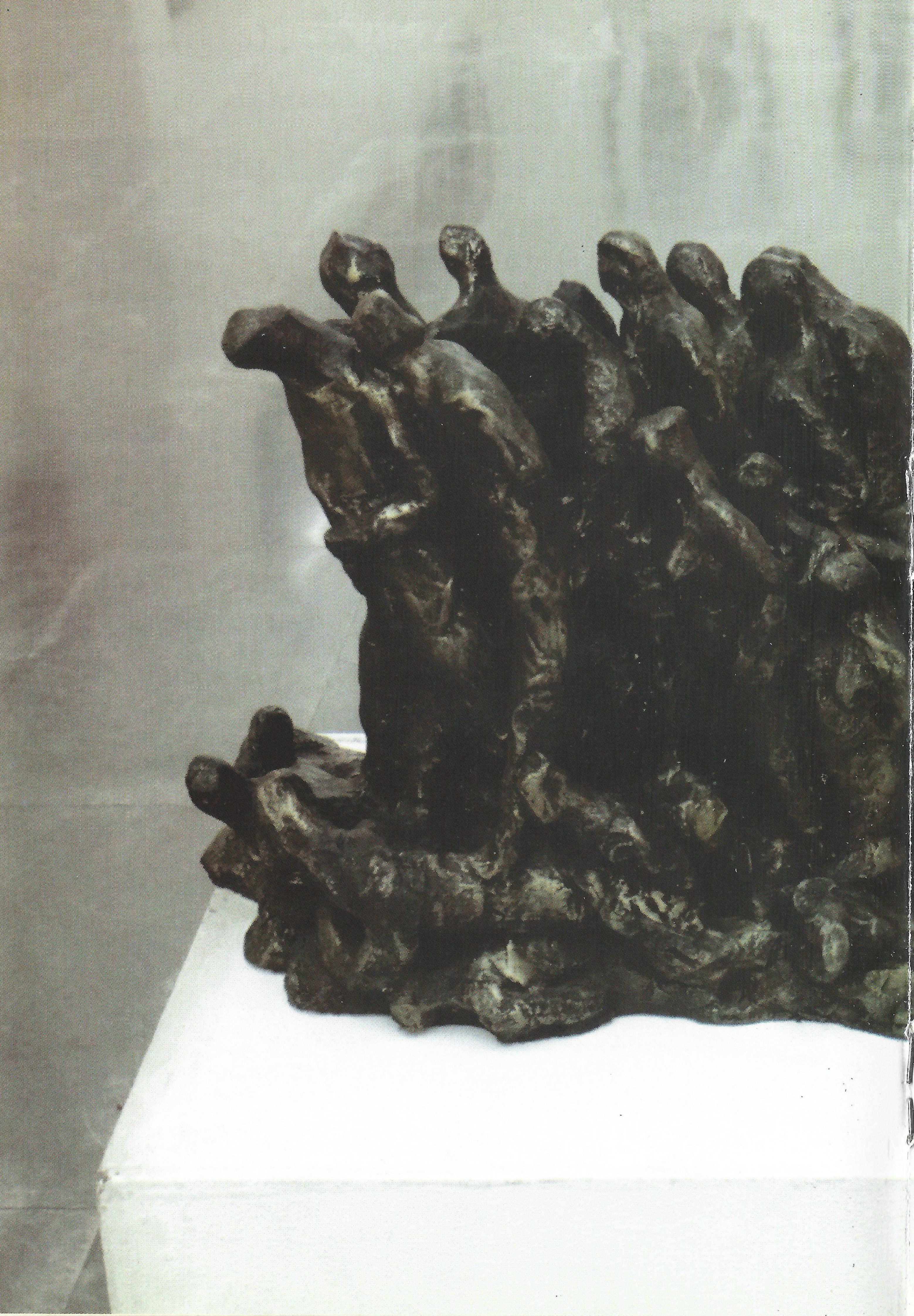


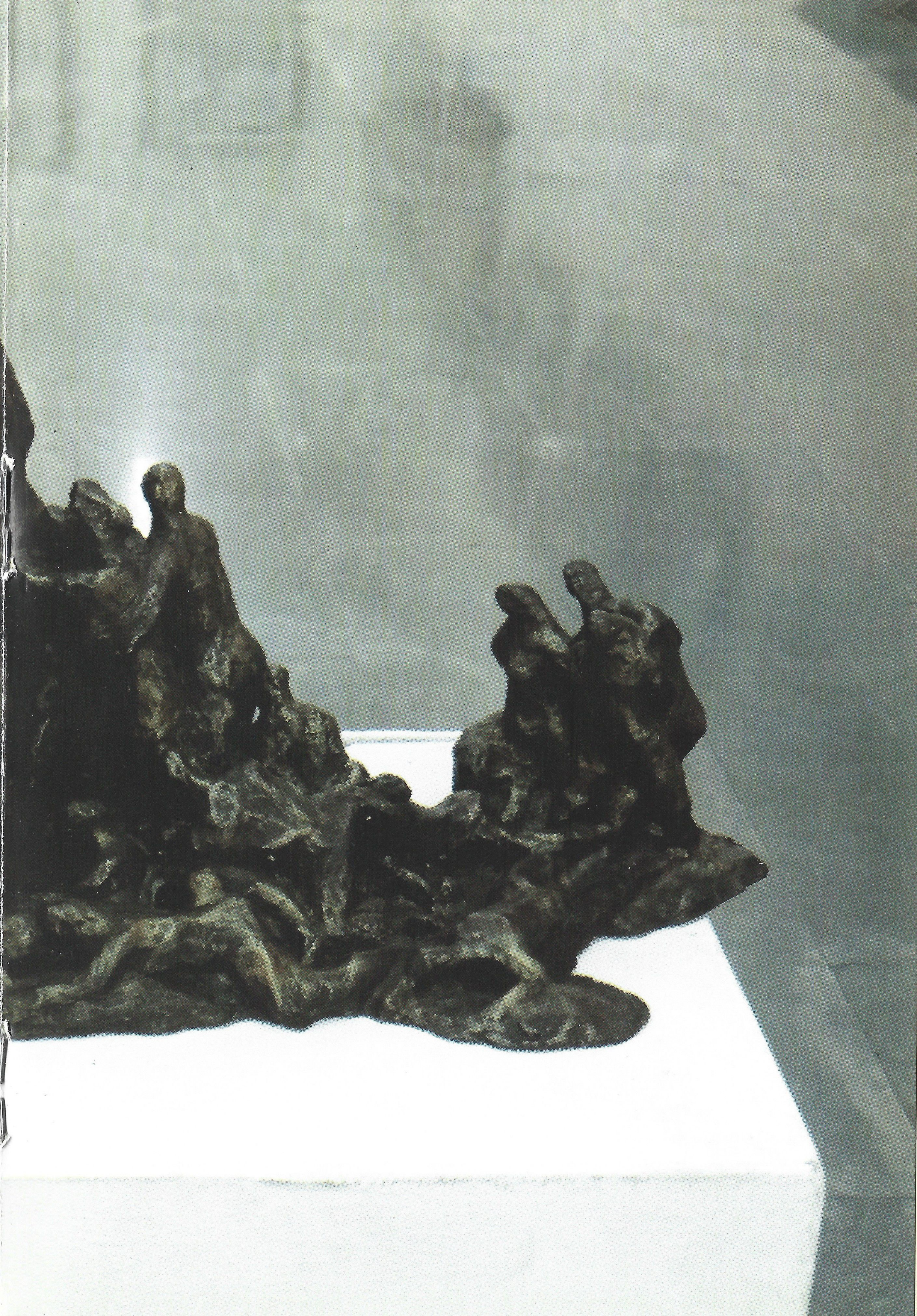
SCULPTURE GALLERY

In 1998-99 a sculpture gallery was also added to the KCP complex. The collection of sculptures in the galleries of the KCP has works of artists like Sunil Das, Shyamal Dutta Roy, Bikash Bhattacharjee, Bimal Kundu and Meera Mukherjee. Most of these artists were part of a movement initiated to indigenous sculptural styles after the deep impact of the colonialperiod.In the beginning

A Bird - Shanko Choudhury







of the 20th century all conventional definitions of art were being systematically challenged, and in India, modern sculptors were grappling with problems of form and content, idiom and expression. The sculptures housed here are of different mediums-terracotta, bronze, fiberglass, ceramic etc. The gallery also contains drawings and sketches from many artists.

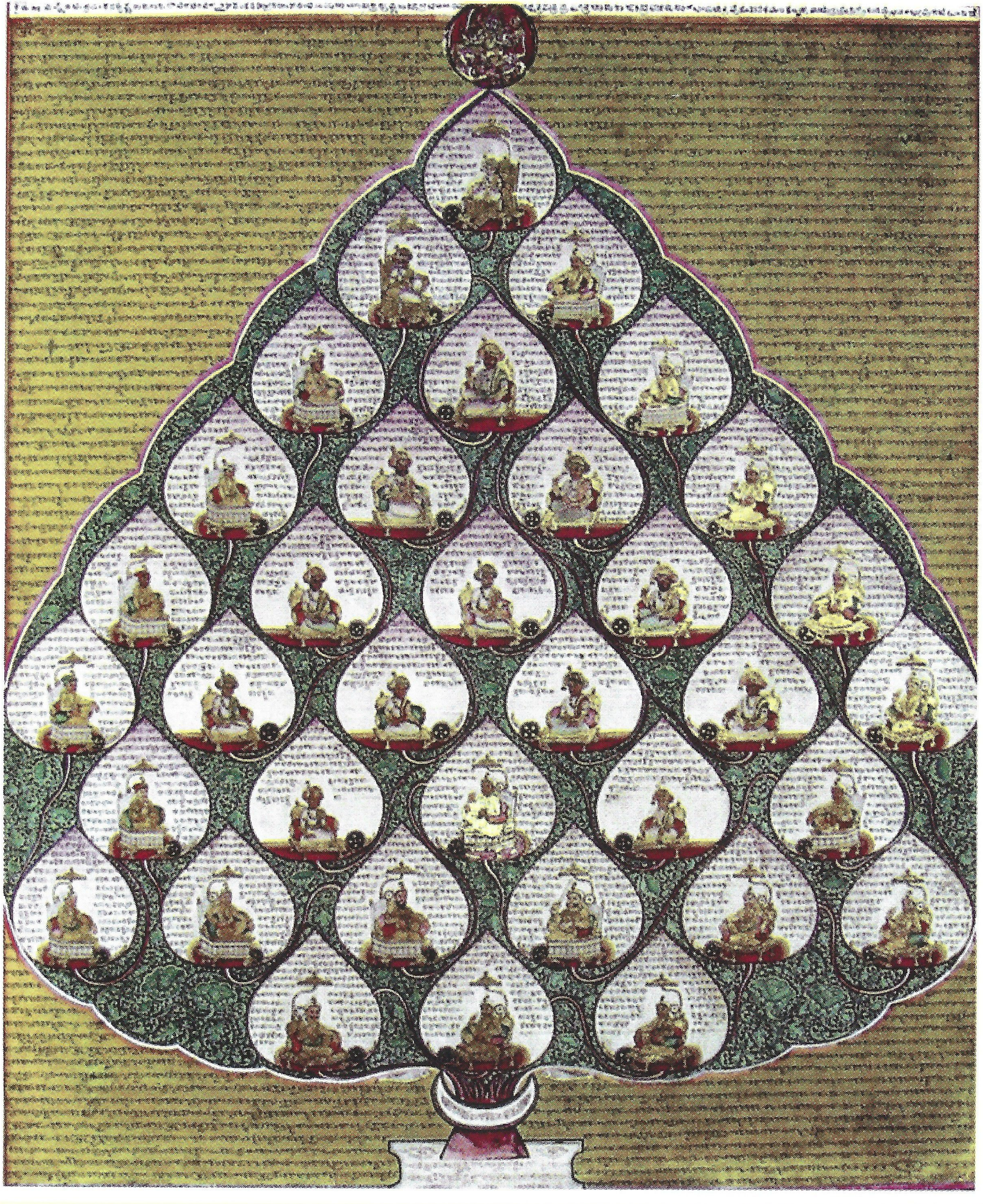
MYSORE TRADITIONAL Painting GALLERY

This unique collection of Mysore traditional style of paintings housed between two gallery spaces holds about 109 works. Dating from the 19th century, the paintings are largely representations of Mythological figures and also the Royal lineage of Mysore. Mysore painting is an important form of classical South Indian painting evolved from the paintings of Vijayanagar times during the reign of the Vijayanagar Kings (1336-1565AD). The rulers of Vijayanagar and their feudatories encouraged literature, art, architecture, religious and philosophical discussions. With the fall of the Vijayanagar empire after the Battle of Talikota the artists under royal patronage migrated to Mysore, Tanjore, Surpur and other principalities, absorbing the local artistic traditions and customs.

View of Traditional Gallery

The works in the collection of the Parishath have all been executed on specially treated paper and the colors used are mineral and vegetable dyes with the use of gesso and gold. The technique is true to textual prescriptions. There is skill displayed in innovations both in theme and technique.

Geneology of Mysore Royal Family - Tippanna



MYSORE TRADITIONAL GALLERY

On the second level (lower) there is a painting of the Dussera procession along with a collection of dolls. Mysuru Tradition painting was taught as a style, with the intricate stylization, flat colouring, iconography and the famous embossed gesso and gold leaf decorations.

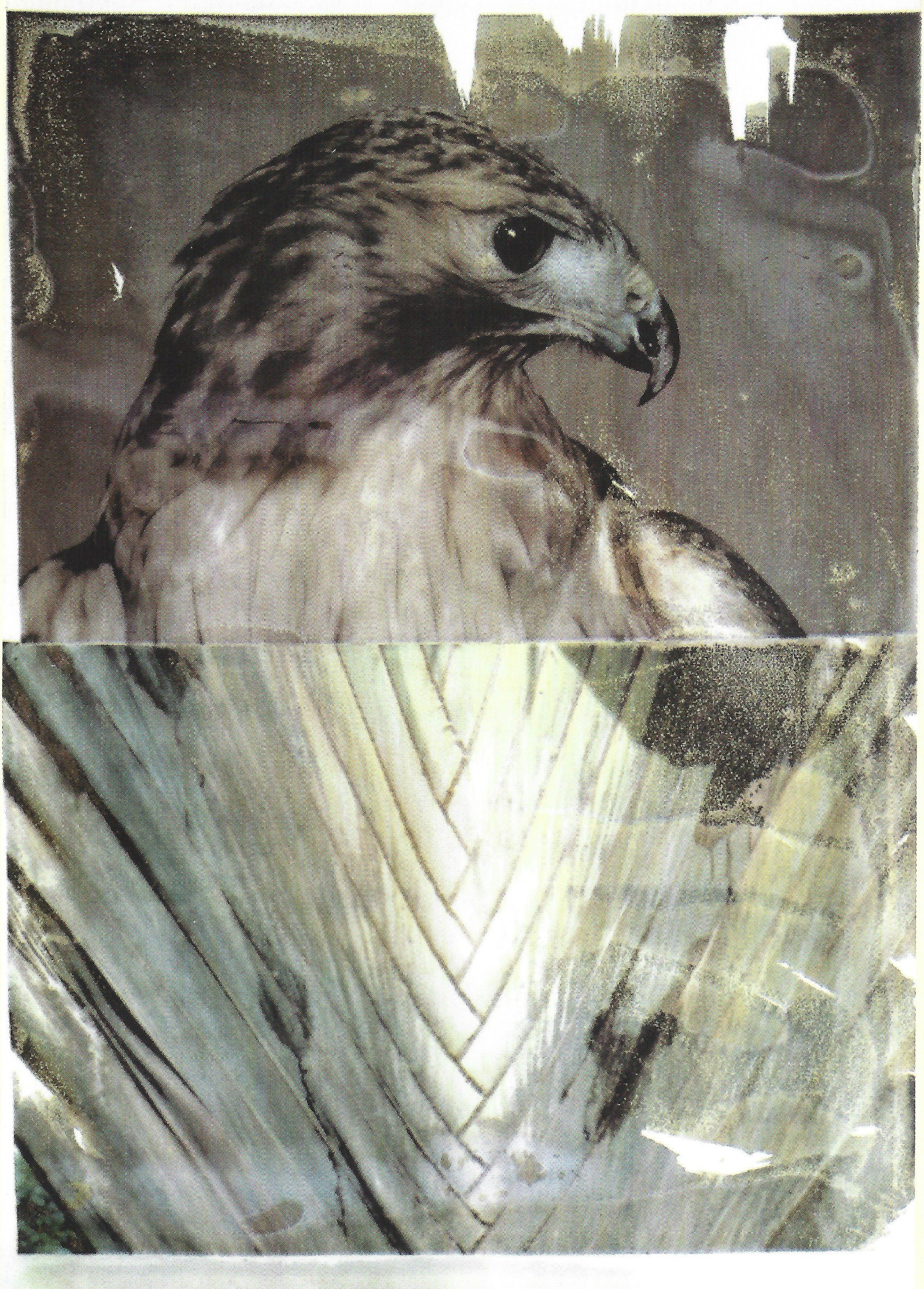
Another feature of this collection is a series of fine line drawings executed in the Mysore traditional style. This style saw its crystallization during the time of Vijayanagara. It was under the patronage of Krishna raja Wodeyar III that the work achieved its unique identity. The themes of these works are usually epics and myths, associated with local histories and the epics. The uniqueness of the Mysore style painting is the delicate gesso work and the stylization of male and female types, colonial architecture and some ionic images of gods, goddesses, puranas, portrait royals and common people that can be characterized as the "company school influence".

STAIRCASE SECTION

The stairwell walls contain an assortment of works in the traditional and folk styles (largely Gond paintings). There is also a series of English book illustrations in the form of engraving prints with the corresponding text pages. They are part of the Kejriwal collection.

INTERNATIONAL GALLERY

The Gallery of International Art is an eclectic collection of works by modern and contemporary artists



Eagle - Robert Rauschenberg

like Robert Rauschenberg, Lee Waisler, Michel Morris, Rich Arnold, Gardon Bradt, Dolino and others.

FOLK ART GALLERY (part 1):

The Folk Art Gallery captures the pulse of rural India, it houses leather and string puppets, Chamba rumals from Kangra and Chamba, Kathi embroidery from Gujarat, Kantha art and folk art paintings from West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, Ganjifa cards, Gond tribal paintings, artifacts from Bastar and Nagaland and many others. The collection focuses not only well-known practices but also some relatively unknown tribal art forms as well. There are pieces of utilitarian art and also ritual art and

Maa Kaali - Dokra Cast

objects. A number of folk communities and tribes around India have been able to preserve their own artistic traditions; this is despite situations of urbanization and commercialization that are causing the loss of artistic traditions.

FOLK ART GALLERY (part 2):

One can view, under a single roof, leather puppets of Karnataka, the Worli paintings of Maharashtra, folk paintings of Tamil Nadu, Pithoras made by Rathwa, Bhil, and the Saura tribes, Assamese folk art, Naga wooden sculptures, Kathis of Gujarat, Santhal art, Gond tribal paintings, Bastar folk art, Madhubani paintings, patachitras from Orissa, Kurumba tribal art, Khonde sculptures, Meena tribal paintings, Phad paintings, patha paintings of Kumaon, reverse glass paintings, mica paintings, besides astrological scrolls, masks, ganjifas, dolls and embroidery work. There are also a large number of sculptures manufactured by the ghadwa metal casters of Bastar. These are cast using the lost wax process and consist primarily symbolic offerings and representation of local Gods. In addition to these there are items of Utilitarian and ornamental value. Additionally, a few tableaus represent village settings and natural environments of the tribes.

Tribal People - Wooden Sculpture

FOLK LEATHER PUPPETS GALLERY

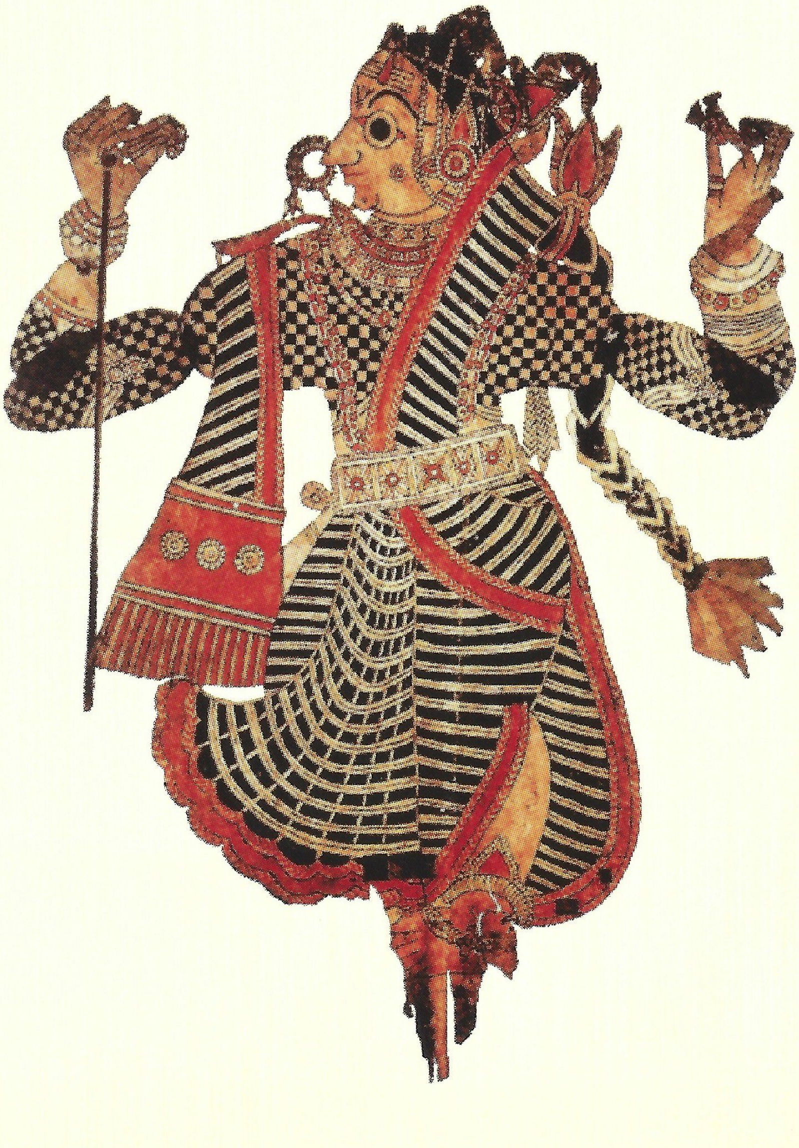
Togalu Gombeyaata in Kannada is a form of shadow puppetry. Prof Nanjunda Rao, founder and visionary of Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath had a deep interest in this tradition.

Research on the subject of leather puppets has been ongoing at the Institution.

These puppets are usually characters from the Hindu epics – the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The collection also contains forms of British soldiers and characters from the colonial period.

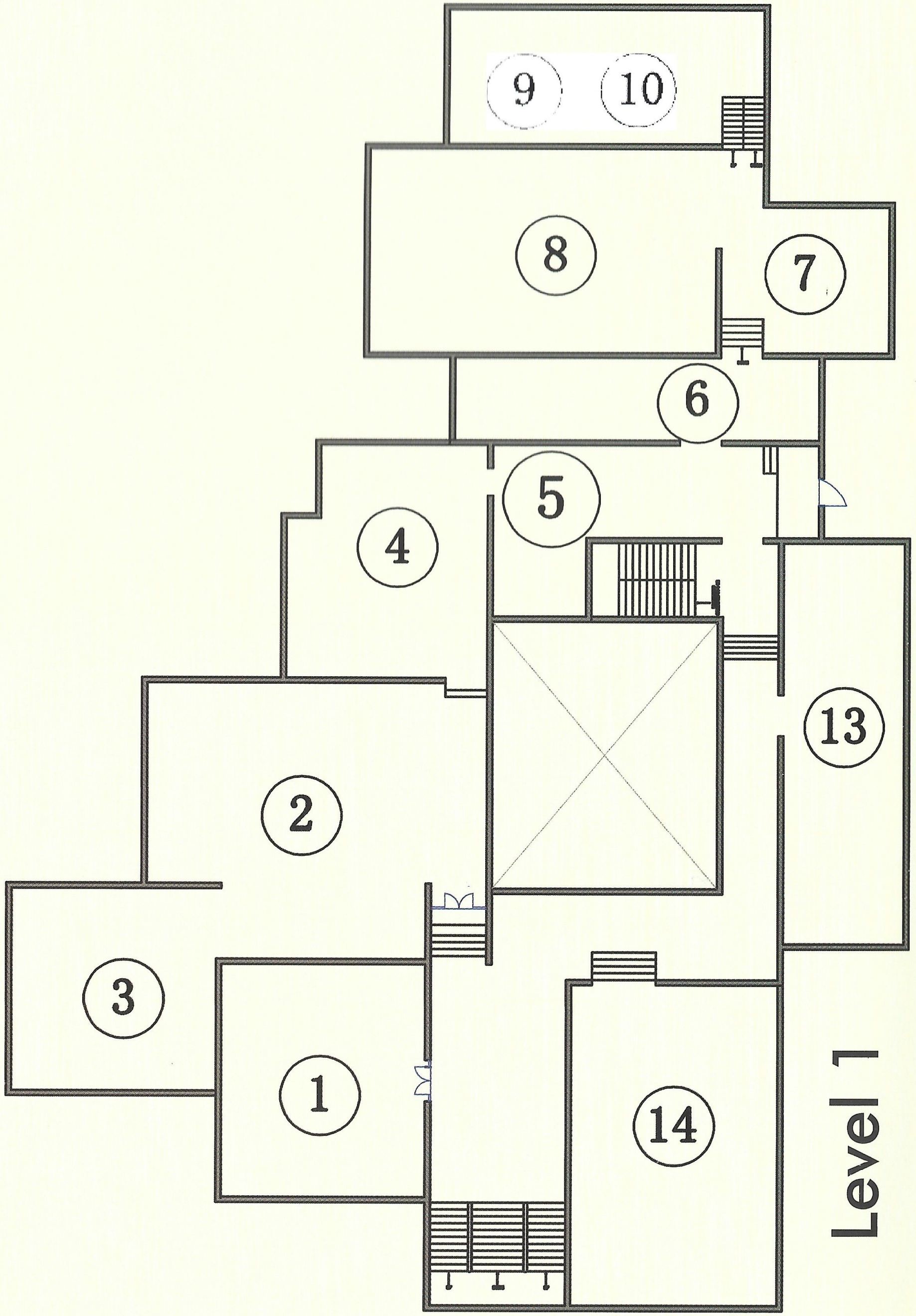
Also housed in the gallery are numerous Mysore dolls, figurines in clay and ceramic, masks and an assortment of votive items, instruments and tools.

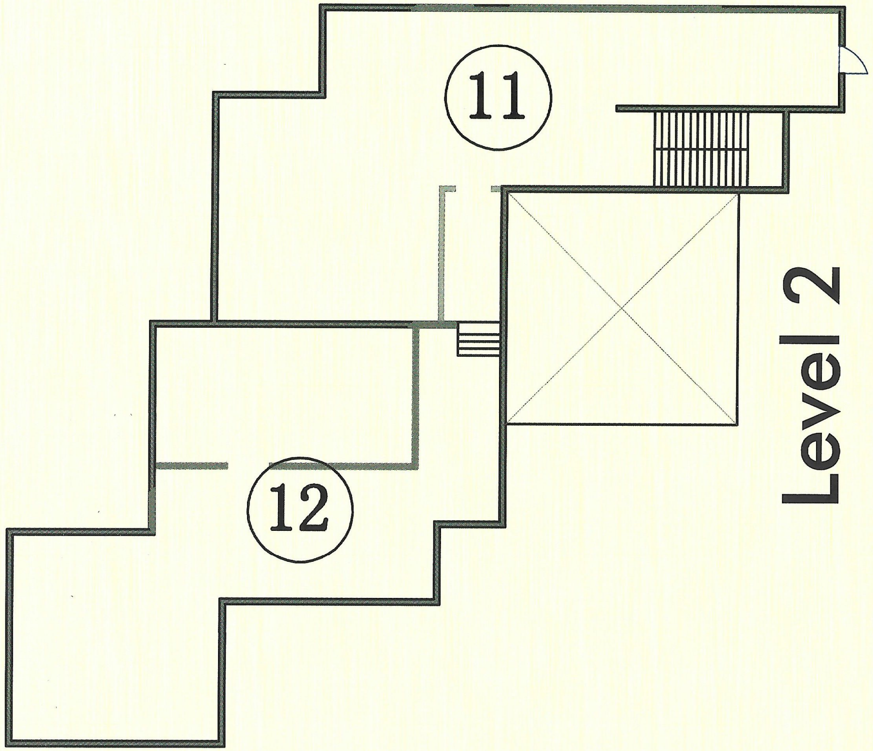
Lady with Paan - Leather Puppet



Notes:

Gallery Map / Plan





1. Nicholas Roerich's Gallery
2. Kejriwal Gallery - 1
3. Kejriwal Gallery - 2
4. Kejriwal Gallery - 3
5. Krishna Reddy Gallery
6. Kukke Gallery
7. Sculpture Gallery - 1
8. Sculpture Galler - 2
9. Traditional Gallery - 1
10. Traditional gallery - 2
11.Folk Art Galler - 1
12. Folk Art Gallery - 2
13. Folk Leather Puppet Gallery
14. Svetoslav Roerich's Gallery

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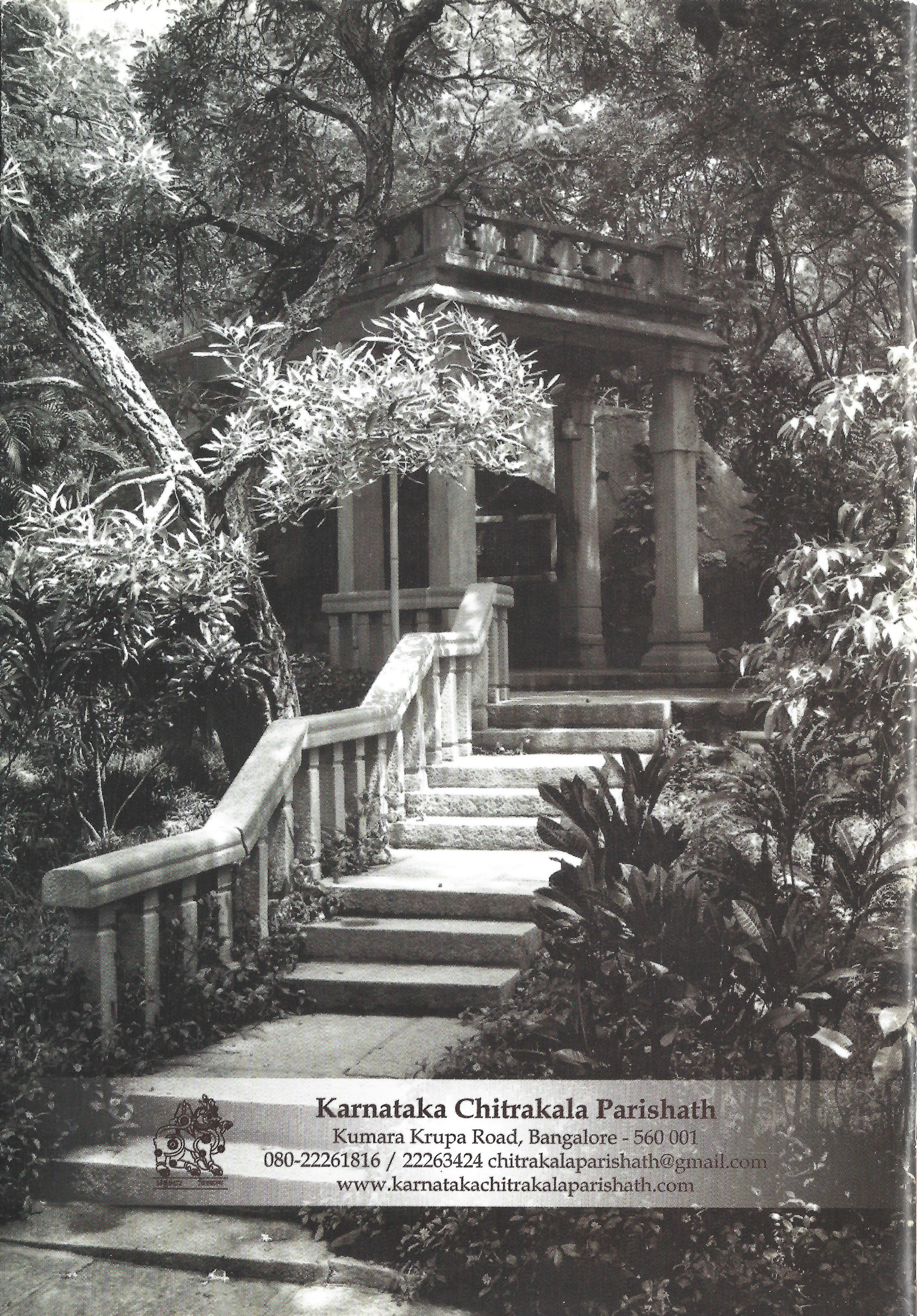

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